The Sun.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1912.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President and Treasurer, William C. Reick, 170 Nassau street; Vice-President, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street; Secretary, Chester S. Lord, 170 Nassau street.

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.

Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodière, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.

Washington office, Hibbs Building.

Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

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Mahlon Pitney for the Supreme Court.

Since the foundation of the Government no native of New Jersey has sat upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. WILLIAM PATERSON was appointed from New Jersey in 1793, but he was born at sea, the son of Irish emigrants. A graduate of Princeton, he was a delegate to the national constitutional convention in 1787 and introduced the resolution that "the State sovereignty shall be preserved, while power shall be placed in the general Government to provide for the common defence and general welfare of the country." Two years later WILLIAM PATERSON became a United States Senator, and was elected Governor of New Jersey in 1791. President WASHINGTON appointed him as a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1793, at the age of 48, and he served until his death, in 1806.

A more famous jurist appointed from New Jersey was JOSEPH P. BRADLEY, who was born in New York. He is best known as a member of the Electoral Commission of 1877 who uniformly voted with the majority and made elaborate arguments in support of its conclusions. JOSEPH P. BRADLEY was 57 when President GRANT appointed him a Justice of the Supreme Court in 1870. In the twenty-two years which Mr. Justice BRADLEY served upon the bench, until his death, in 1892, it fell to him to pronounce opinions upon questions of great moment arising out of the reconstruction legislation of Congress, to pass upon constitutional amendments and to deal with the controversies of railroads with the Government. To the consideration of these questions he brought great learning and a remarkable power of analysis. His opinions, beginning in 9 Wallace, run through more than forty volumes, and the legal profession sets a high value upon them.

Chancellor MAHLON PITNEY, assuming the Senate will confirm Mr. TAFT'S appointment, will be the first native of New Jersey to sit in the Supreme Court of the United States. His professional qualifications are attested by a service of seven years on the bench of the Supreme Court of the State and four years as Chancellor. His judicial bent took him out of politics early. One term and a part of another in the House of Representatives at Washington and one term in the State Senate sum up his political activities, and they were never of a partisan character. He always kept aloof from faction, and there is no better testimonial to his worth as a citizen than the fact that when the Republicans of New Jersey were in need of a high class candidate for Governor or Senator pressure was brought to bear upon MAHLON PITNEY to leave the bench and lead his party. He is a man of high character and fine attainments.

A Novel Anti-Vivisection Argument.

MARK TWAIN long ago commented upon the irresistible propensity of the human race to make an ass of itself every time it gets a chance. A flagrant example of this asininity is found in the recent announcement of a new reason for the pertinacity of doctors in their cruel vivisection practices. Starting off with a brilliant arraignment of PASTEUR and LISTER, who "not only stood in the way of progress but covered the medical profession with ridicule," this maudlin zoophile endeavored to convince an audience of intelligent women that "the fear of death among their wealthy associates is due to these dreadful vivisectionists, who insist upon making them love life and on prolonging their existence nolens volens so that they, the doctors, may enjoy the pleasure of torturing dogs and guinea pigs and other precious living creatures."

The asinine fulminations of one COLERIDGE, some of which brought him costly damage suits, are cast far into the shade by this remarkable person from the City of Brotherly Love. The stupidity of his assertions regarding PASTEUR and LISTER could hardly have failed to strike most of his hearers, for one may scarcely find an audience nowadays in which there are not a number of persons whose lives have been saved by LISTER'S asepsis, which originated in that antisepsis derided by this savant because it was displaced by the former. Nor would it be easy to find among an audience of women many who have not the intelligence to realize that infants' lives have been saved by pasteurized milk. To this blatant "anti" these are "fictions," just as is the fact that "the discovery of the circulation of blood was the result of vivisection experiment." Every decently educated person knows this assertion to be true, for HARVEY himself describes minutely how he observed the circulation of the blood in dogs, pigs, fishes, frogs, even in serpents, lobsters and in the living chick while still in the shell.

The most marvellous of all the pernicious results of vivisection, however, we are told by this wiseacre, is "the economic pressure which is responsible for the hurry habit which makes Broadway three times as dangerous as crossing the ocean"! The anti-vivisectionists are indeed in extremis for argument if they sit calmly and listen to such nonsensical vaporings.

To Get the Truth in the Brandt Case.

The questions submitted by the correspondent whose letter is subjoined are not difficult to answer:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Are the District Attorney and the Attorney-General employed to prosecute burglars or to persecute their victims?

"Are they employed to discourage and to punish such criminals or to encourage them and procure their release on sham technicalities? CITIZEN.

"NEW YORK, February 19."

The duties of the officers elected and appointed to enforce the criminal statutes enacted by the Legislature are to see that justice is done, and to perform their functions in such a manner that no man can be punished except for the commission of a crime after conviction therefor on a trial during the course of which his rights and privileges have been completely protected.

Serious as is any perversion of justice that permits a guilty man to escape the penalty of his misdeeds, it ranks in danger to society far below that perversion of justice which imposes a cruel or excessive sentence. Much as the prosecutor or the Judge who prostitutes his office to give freedom to a wrongdoer deserves punishment, his transgression is a minor one in comparison with that of the officer who uses his power wrongfully to restrain the liberties of another human being.

Nor, thanks to the wisdom of the law, can the right to be heard publicly before the proper tribunal be denied to any individual, be his station what it may, whose interests require the recital of his story. Authority superior to the clamor of the mob fixes the privileges of all.

Whatever may be the course of the District Attorney with regard to witnesses before the Grand Jury, the hearing before the Governor's commissioner, Judge HAND, should afford an opportunity to everybody who can contribute to the truth of the Brandt case, and in the interest of all the hearing should be public.

Solution of the Remount Problem.

The American thoroughbred received homage at the Sportsmen's dinner last night and incidentally it was disclosed that the passage of anti-racing laws in various States has not only crippled the breeding industry in this country but also has hampered the Government in obtaining suitable horses for army service. The remount question has already received intelligent official study in Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia and other European countries which foster racing and breeding as solutions of the problem.

It was not so very long ago that American breeders produced horses that showed sterling quality, winners of rich stakes and subsequently sires of colts and fillies that have been sought in foreign horse markets.

A revival of racing in the State of New York, with necessary restrictions as to public speculation, would mean renewed activity at the great breeding establishments and in due time an abundance of good material for remounts in the artillery and cavalry arms of the Federal service.

The Red Sea Campaign.

The announcement that a landing party of Italian marines has taken possession of the Farsan Islands in the Red Sea calls attention again to a neglected but interesting portion of the present war's operations. Tripoli, because of its proximity to Europe and because of the size of the army engaged, has commanded the centre of the stage, yet from a naval point of view, at least, the Red Sea campaign surpasses it in interest.

In point of fact the only naval engagement, which even rises to the dignity of a skirmish, took place in Red Sea waters and resulted in a miniature reproduction of the combat in Manila Bay, the Turkish flotilla playing the inglorious part of the Spanish fleet at Cavite. In the same way the bombardment of Hodeida, a port south of the Farsan Islands, has provoked French indignation, since French contractors are building a railroad inland from this harbor.

The strategic value of the Farsan Islands, which have now been occupied by Italy, is apparent on the slightest glance at the map. They lie off the Arabian coast directly in front of the Italian port of Massowah in Eritrea and precisely at the point where the Red Sea begins to narrow, north of the Straits of Bab el Mandeb. They occupy something like the same strategic relation to the northern entrance of the strait that the British island of Socotra does to the southern, and in Italian hands would give Italy a base on both sides of the Red Sea channel, which is here less than a hundred miles wide.

Whether Italy contemplates a subsequent seizure of territory upon the Asiatic side of the Red Sea does not yet appear, but the bombardment of Hodeida and the seizure of the Farsan Islands may easily forecast such a step. The Italian situation is here strikingly like that along the Adriatic, and the long standing Italian dream of gaining a foothold in Albania and thus hold the two shores of the Adriatic would be exactly repeated if the Italian plans include the seizure of any part of the Arabian coast opposite Eritrea.

The dangers of such a campaign are plain. First of all there is the practical certainty that such a step would excite the protest of France, whose colony of Somali joins Eritrea. Great Britain's stations at Aden, Socotra and Perim would be shorn of half their value if Italy were seated on both sides of the Red Sea, north of the gate which England has seized and barred. English naval officers who have protested against Italian possession of Tobruk would find even better ground for protest here.

Finally, one danger that Red Sea operations must always have lies in the proximity of Mecca to the shore and to the waters now patrolled by Italian gunboats and the islands held by Italian marines. The seizure of territory in Arabia and not far away from the holy city of Islam might easily provoke an outburst of fanaticism which would find an echo in India and in Morocco and all French North Africa. Hence the plain apprehension displayed by all European journals over every move made by Italy outside of Tripoli.

The truth of the matter is that the Turkish Empire is little less than a powder magazine. Any aggression in European territories or waters instantly raises the inevitable spectre of a Balkan explosion. Red Sea operations are equally serious for Russia, England and France, who have millions of Mohammedan subjects.

An Unprogressive Republican.

Fearing perhaps a political breach of promise suit, the Hon. GIFFORD PINCHOT gives lilies with full hands to his jilted Wisconsin love:

"I retain undiminished my admiration for the high quality of his past services to the Progressive cause, but the course which the Senator has elected to pursue will not keep the Progressives together, and in that course I cannot follow him. * * * The country knows that Colonel ROOSEVELT is a genuine Progressive."

The country does not know it; and the La Follette Progressives will not admit it. Hear one of their voices, the Wood County *Reporter:*

"As a Progressive Republican of the La Follette type, we say if we cannot have a full fledged, aggressive Progressive Republican candidate like Senator LA FOLLETTE, give us TAFT with whatever faults he may have."

And now another Wisconsin Progressive Republican voice, the Badger State *Banner:*

"ROOSEVELT is not a true representative of the Progressive cause and he can nowhere arouse any enthusiasm as such."

Such seems to be the opinion of the men who believe in LA FOLLETTE. To them he stands for certain ideas. He is not as Mr. ROOSEVELT will be, if he follows the solicitations of the curious little coterie of soreheads and parasites which surrounds him, a representative of personal resentment and ambition.

Mr. ROOSEVELT is an opportunist of genius with a wholly elastic set of principles. It is as easy as talking for him to be the most regular of Republicans, the most sluggish of standpatters, and yet esteem himself the original Progressive and the most progressive of Progressives. He can swing from Osawatomie to Albany with the utmost ease; be a conservative for the East and a radical for the West. A valuable gift, no doubt, but the La Follettians distrusted him in the New York Republican convention of 1910, and they are not inclined to be a sacrifice to his wonderful versatility.

Face Making.

According to Dr. CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT, a distinguished Boston anatomist and biologist, every man more than fifty makes his own face; that is, it becomes in some sort the reflection and expression of his life, his character, his thoughts, his action. So every man of middle life may be said to wear his heart upon his countenance.

The physiological or psychological ground of this theory of face sculpture, so to speak, let those examine who have the right; on its own account the lay world may be justified in registering a protest. Will any kindly nature be persuaded that SOCRATES, for instance, was half as bad as by the Minotian theorem he was painted by himself? Even if Uncle JOE CANNON is worse than his worst enemies held him—in his lifetime and that of czarism—he cannot have been as bad as he looked. Does JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS make his face? Is his amiable and social nature, the wisdom which he won at so many universities and Yazoo, adequately or at all portrayed in the countenance which he has wrought for himself?

There is no shadow of personality in these remarks. We wish merely to utter the common regret that so many fair and noble souls seem to come into life with somebody else's clothes of flesh on; they are addressed in the wrong envelope. If men, the vainest sex, could make their faces, what constant tinkering and repairs even the most beautiful of them would have to undergo. No, men are not the architects of their frontispieces; and too often the loftiest thoughts are wronged by the head wherein they live. Only once in a great while the exterior repeats the charm of the interior. Then we see and wonder at an ALCIBIADES, a WOODROW WILSON.

The Ospina Letter.

When Secretary ROOT visited Cartagena on September 24, 1906, he was met by General VASQUEZ COBOS, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who had been sent down from Bogotá by President REYES to represent the Government. According to a Cartagena despatch of that date:

"The conference was pleasant throughout. The Colombians tendered Mr. ROOT a splendid reception. Cordial feeling and good spirits were displayed throughout the visit."

General REYES had not long been in office. His mission to Washington to revive the Hay-Herran treaty, so that Colombia could obtain the compensation for Panama which she had missed by postponing ratification of the treaty indefinitely, had been a failure, and it was still fresh in the minds of the Colombians. Nevertheless Secretary ROOT'S visit to Cartagena, long heralded, was not "inopportune"; he was received with all the honors, and not the slightest symptom of hostility was manifested.

Plans have been completed for the construction of the last link in the Trans-Australian Railway, which will connect the east and west coasts. The distance between these two coasts is just above 4,000 miles, but there remain to be constructed only 1,061 miles between Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta. The cost of the entire work will be $20,000,000. For the present year $5,000,000 has been appropriated. The line will cross the great Australian desert, which has so long interposed a successful barrier between the colonies on the Pacific and that on the Indian Ocean.

French naval strategists are at present actively disputing over the rival merits of Pointe-a-Pitre in Guadeloupe and Fort de France in Martinique as naval bases. The discussion is an incident in the campaign to increase French naval strength in the Caribbean to meet the new conditions which the opening of the Panama Canal will create. Pointe-a-Pitre has the advantage of being slightly nearer the trade routes, but Fort de France is one of the largest and safest harbors in the West Indies and has been heretofore the French naval port in American waters

Unable to make a satisfactory living in the pulpit, the Rev. HIRAM SPENCER has resigned as pastor of the Congregational Church here to devote his entire attention to chicken raising.—*Despatch from Great Barrington, Mass.*

Evidently the reverend gentleman will not make a living in his new business if he tries to sell chickens to the members of his old congregation.

The honor for the greatest proportionate gain among French cities, as shown by the last census, belongs to Nantes, which in five years increased from 132,430 to 170,535, passing Nice, Toulouse and St. Etienne and becoming the sixth instead of the ninth city in size in France. Only Paris and Lyons exceeded Nantes in actual increase in the last census period.

In addition to the value which attaches to Leap Year because of its special privileges there is a strictly commercial value which appeals to the tax gatherer. Thus the Chancellor of the Exchequer estimates that British revenue gains $1,800,000 in gross and $400,000 in net receipts in consequence of the extra day and imperial imports and exports expand by $17,500,000.

It is to be hoped that the reported determination of Princeton undergraduates to look like statesmen will not discourage their ambition to act like gentlemen.

THE ARTS IN RAHWAY.

When Stephens of "Vanity Fair" Played Simon Probity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of Mr. E. S. Ellis in THE SUN of February 18 recalls much that I had thought was known to no one but myself, as I believe that all the associates of my father, Henry L. Stephens, have passed away. It was my work as a very young boy to hunt the woods and streams about Rahway for frogs, rabbits, squirrels, snakes and birds, while our home farm furnished domestic fowls and animals as subjects for my father's pencil and pen, much of his work being in pen and ink. I also constructed sundry supports in the shape of chairs and gallows on which the animals were posed in the desired positions. While cartooning and caricaturing constituted largely my father's daily work, his pleasure and recreation lay in sketching animal life.

As far as I know *Vanity Fair* was started by Frank J. Thompson, who put up the money and was actively associated with the management, though Louis H. Stephens was the official "manager." Later on Mr. William Camac of Philadelphia became interested, and financed the undertaking until the venture failed. At that time partisan spirit ran high in the North, and a comic paper espousing any one side of necessity made many enemies.

Mr. Ellis's letter brings to mind many pleasant recollections of the old Rahway Athenæum, a dramatic society started by my father and his friends and neighbors, such artists as Samuel Wallin, Frank Jones, George B. Howlend and John R. Chapin, with Henry Spear, Thomas E. Garson, George R. Mooney, Thomas J. Rayner and other professional or business men. This little organization, formed in the middle '60s, was the first of the kind around New York. The Murray Hill, the Wallack, the Amaranth and other amateur dramatic societies popular a few years later all had their origin in this little art venture in conventional, old fashioned Rahway. People from New York and Brooklyn, who first made the rather formidable journey over the New Jersey Railroad in winter to see the little company, soon came regularly to take part in it, later organizing new societies in New York and Brooklyn. This work was my father's one pet diversion, and he was never happier than when playing the *King* in "Bombastes," old *Simon Probity* in "The Chimney Corner," and other parts both serious and buffo in the modest répertoire of the day. I wonder how many are left about New York to-day who had any immediate connection with the Athenæum? So far as I know, only two or three besides myself. W. P. STEPHENS.

BAYONNE, N. J., February 19.

"MAC" AND "O."

The Latter the Greater Prefix, but Some "Macs" Genealogically Faultless.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Mac" should never be written "Mc" or "M'," but always in full, "Mac." There is no more sense in writing McShane than Johnsn, its equivalent. You will search Irish annals in vain for "Mc" or "M'." The habit is ungraceful and ignorant and came from a desire to save space when writing and printing were difficult. This applies to both Irish and Scots surnames, Scotsmen being emigrant Irishmen, and Scotch Gaelic a provincial dialect of Irish, the classic and literary Gaelic tongue.

In the letter published in THE SUN of February 12 I gave evidence enough to show the prefix "O" to be higher than the prefix "Mac." Nevertheless some "Mac" families are higher than some "O" families. There is, for example, no family in Ireland or even in Europe genealogically higher than the MacCarthys Mor (Great), former kings of Munster. The true test is the family pedigree. The pedigree of almost every Irish family of distinction still exists, though Irish pedigrees excited the peculiarly destructive enmity of the English, who, having none, desired that "no man should know his owne grandfather." By going back to Milesius (B. C. 1000) and even Adam, Irish pedigrees invite satire, but they have withstood every test from the second century onward and from that date are the most authentic in Europe. The "O" still ranks as a title on the Continent of Europe, being retained by nobles of Irish descent in every land.

"M. E. C." is mistaken in regard to the MacDaniell pedigree. The MacDaniells are a branch of the MacDomhnaills or MacDonnells, Lords of Clan Kelly, Fermanagh, of which surname MacDaniell is simply an anglicized form. Their arms are likewise the same, gu. a lion pass. guard. or. They were celebrated commanders of galloglasses, and make a remarkable figure in Irish history. Their ancestor was Lochlann, son of Donall, son of Airt, who was the twenty second descendant of Cormac Mac Airt, surnamed "the Magnificent" (died A. D. 276), celebrated pagan monarch of Ireland, ancestor also of Queen Victoria, and through her of the German Kaiser. The last lord of the territory was Flanagain (son of Teighe) MacDaniell, dispossessed by the English. HERBERT O'HARA MOLINEUX.

NEW YORK, February 16.

For the Inner Shrine.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Cookfair runs a restaurant in Third avenue. There should be room for him. FRANK E. DAVIS.

NEW YORK, February 19.

A Day in the Life of a New Yorker.

A New York business man was Jones,
And this is why he kicked:
Upon his road down town at morn
He had his pockets picked.

Jones felt disturbed a bit, but then
Recovered very soon,
To learn when he came back from lunch
His cashier skipped at noon.

Jones later started for the bank,
But lost his wad between;
Three men from out a taxi leaped
And cracked him on his bean.

Jones sought his cosey home at night
To rest his weary head,
But found, when he attempted sleep,
A man beneath his bed.

McLANDBURGH WILSON.

NOVELETTES OF THIS TIME.

The Dying Gladiator Refuses to Die.

When Amos and Gifford had safely reached shore and had hoisted their loyal colors on the Outlook Opera House they reported that few stenographers were left on the windlogged raft and that Senator Bob was getting ready to sink the whole outfit in another sea of oratory. It was true that most of the stenographers had been thrown overboard for lack of funds and the paltry few that remained made the General think of *King Lear* stripped of his knights.

"Why need one?" asked a "one time" supporter as he took to the lifeboat.

"Blow winds and crack your cheeks!" exclaimed the Senator. "Oh, if I had only had the wisdom to keep that old devil Stephenson and his bank account on my side!"

Darkness fell about the headquarters, things looked so bad that the boom manager was about to hand over the office key to the janitor and cash in the straw votes, when a hungry stenographer shouted: "A sail! A sail!"

The Dying Gladiator leaped to his feet, believing he was once more on the lecture platform. Sure enough there was a formidable looking object headed toward them.

"What is it?" asked the Gladiator hopefully. "Has any State instructed delegates for me?"

"Much better than that," sighed the stenographer gratefully; "it looks like $30,000!"

The Gladiator immediately gave orders to steer the raft alongside and take it on board no matter if it were 30 cents. The sight gave him "renewed vigor," as he expressed it.

"By jolly!" he said, "I'll show them that I can talk them to a standstill yet."

With bundles of banknotes for ballast the craft soon righted herself and became seaworthy. The old skipper was himself again and began to inflate his lungs so deeply that the sails flapped. Things looked so promising that Representative Esch of Wisconsin came out with a statement. He said that while the Gladiator was "eliminated because of illness," nevertheless the State of Wisconsin would instruct its delegates for him "as a matter of State pride."

At these cold words of support the Douglas round him drew his cloak, folded his arms and spoke for sixty-five minutes. Among other remarks, he said:

"Hush, Esch! The hand of Douglas is his own, and never shall in friendly grasp the hand of such as Roosevelt clasp."

Then he sent for the wireless operator and wirelessed the following message to a Western editor who was getting weak in the knees.

"The report that I am down and out is not so. I merely fell over the ropes a couple of times for lack of breath after the banquet. My one time supporters announced that I had gone to the mat. The statements that I was all in are false. It was the bank account that was all in. I admit that I overtaxed my lungs, but from now on I want the support of delegates who stand ready to win or lose in my table stake game. No more loyal Giffords and Amoses for mine. And wait until I ask that man Roosevelt for advice again! It will be when blackbirds turn white."

WEST END AVENUE.

Call to Its Residents to Force Its Improvement.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Park Commissioner Stover is quoted as saying "the trouble with many New Yorkers is that they don't kick about things they ought to kick about." If this is true of the residents of West End avenue, then the Commissioner is justified in his plan to do away with the grass plots on that street, and if it is not true, then why don't the residents show they are interested by sending letters to Commissioner Stover?

West End avenue is so neglected that something must be done; but when other parts of the city are asking that their sections be beautified, why should money be spent on a street the residents of which are apathetic?

West End avenue is the only purely residential street on the West Side. If live trees were substituted for dead ones, the grass plots graded and resodded and the unpainted, sagging, broken gas pipe fences replaced by borders of low shrubs, the monotony broken by trees and lamp posts rising from masses of foliage, West End avenue could be made so lovely that we would not go to Europe to see a beautiful street. Running north and south, it has the sunlight all day, and being a park street has not the dust of a business street to kill the shrubs. W. BRYAN.

NEW YORK, February 19.

The Hour for Baseball.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As the opening of the baseball season for 1912 is only a short time away it would be a good thing if the directors of the American and National leagues got together and agreed to start the games in their leagues at 3 or 3:30 P. M. instead of 4 P. M. The latter hour is the time that games have been started on both grounds in New York city and in Brooklyn. For the last two or three years in some of the Western cities games have started at 3 P. M., and the fans have expressed satisfaction at the change in the starting time.

The principal reason for beginning the games at 4 P. M. in New York city and Brooklyn was to accommodate the fans from Wall Street. When the brokerage and banking houses in that district close in the afternoons droves of fans flock to the baseball grounds to enjoy a good game of ball. A few hours in the open tends to make one forget the cares and worry of the day and creates an appetite for dinner.

Beginning the games at 4 P. M. was all right some years ago before the improved rapid transit facilities were installed. Since the subway has been in operation it is an easy matter for a person to board a Broadway express train at a downtown station and ride up to the grounds.

In the fall, when the days are short, it is always necessary to start the games early. Otherwise they would have to be called about the fifth inning on account of darkness. Only one thing favors beginning the games at 4 P. M. In the dog days the heat is just beginning to give way to the coolness of evening. Then, what is more enjoyable than sitting in the grand stand with your coat off, sleeves rolled up, watching the home team bat the opposing pitcher out of the box? A FAN.

NEW YORK, February 19.

Leo XIII. on Ambition.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I find the following brief poem among the works of Pope Leo XIII. ("Poems of Pope Leo XIII.," p. 259); its application to the citizen of Oyster Bay will be clearly perceived:

"AMBITION.—The fiercest spur to hidden hate and open war, turns its back on justice, and, making deceit its companion, strives brazenly for the rewards due to virtue."

It is possible that others may appreciate this as much as I do.

A UNION SOLDIER.

PHILADELPHIA, February 19.

Our Busy Police.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The article on "Good Old New York" was all right, but why omit the obvious fact that the current series of holdups, highway robberies and daylight burglaries, without a vestige of clue, are largely due to our police watching poolrooms, handbook men and gambling houses which are not paying for police protection?

Let any man going home in the small hours look around and see where he would be if assaulted just at that moment. Such individual observation is calculated to make the average citizen "wake up." LEONARD SCHUYLER.

NEW YORK, February 19.

The Philanthropist.

Stella—Did the bride's father give her away?

Bella—Yes, as though she was a library. He won't support her afterward.

THE NEW YORK FIRE HAZARD.

Danger of a Conflagration Declared to Be Ever Present.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Fire Facts" has overlooked the early history of the high pressure water service and how it was at first received by the Fire Department. No matter how perfect a water supply, and no matter how perfect the organization of a fire department, human endeavor cannot cope with a conflagration, and the conditions which favor a conflagration are not mentioned at all by "Fire Facts." To assume that a fire department could overcome difficulties which are oftentimes occasioned by an uncomfortable combination of the elements, not alone some of the criminally negligent arrangements in certain buildings in New York, is an absurd premise. It is apparent that the spirit which actuates helpful criticism is entirely lost sight of. Conflagrations are not predicted by experts, but what experts have in mind is to point out the conditions which favor conflagrations and suggest a remedy.

After arraigning the experts and winding up the discourteous complimentaries "Fire Facts" says that the Chicago conflagration was caused by three months drought and high wind and exhausted firemen; the Boston conflagration of 1872 by a delayed alarm, insufficient water supply and sick horses, and so on; giving what is evidently a fire department official's reasons for conflagrations, and losing entire sight of the elementary fact that these conflagrations were caused by poor building construction and arrangement. How a drought, exhausted firemen and horses sick with the epizootic could cause a conflagration is a peculiar consideration to say the least. And wherein does a crack fire department and a high pressure water supply protect New York against the possibility of a conflagration?

It is asserted that a high pressure water service is one of the assurances against a conflagration; yet further on we read that if the water supply should become useless in that section of the city most liable to have a conflagration, namely, below Fifty-ninth street, there are rivers on both sides of the city for the fire engines to draw water from, as the old hand engine often did with success many years ago. Wherein is it helpful that New York can assemble twice as many engines inside an hour as Baltimore assembled in twenty-seven hours from its own equipment and from that of thirteen other cities and towns within reach? The recent Equitable fire certainly shows how impotent this agency really is. That the opposing array of a number of portable steam pumps is a guarantee against a conflagration cannot be conceded.

Sixty-seven years experience in one city has been sixty-seven years of commendable effort, and those who are endeavoring to point out what can be done to remove conditions favoring conflagration have been courteous enough to express the appreciation of the efforts of the Fire Department, and it is to be regretted that certain ones of the Fire Department cannot return the courtesy. Improvements in the conditions not only would further remove the possibility of conflagrations but would also remove many of the conditions that make for casualties in the Fire Department. Nothing is to be gained by loose thought and by the arrogance that Fire Department officials often display. Nobody seeks to encroach upon the prerogatives of Fire Department officials, and neither should they assume to criticise those who are quite qualified and well informed in matters they pass opinion on.

In concluding "Fire Facts" says that "unless some unusual and improbable conditions caused by the elements, or something which cannot be foreseen exists, a conflagration in New York city is well nigh impossible." Not a thing is said of the causes which contribute to a conflagration. The elements assist, but do not furnish either the cause or effect. I. G. H.

NEW YORK, February 19.

CONNECTICUT BISHOP.

A Hot Appurtenance of Nutmegian New Year Festivities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A recipe for bishop dated 1820 says: "The day before you want to use the liquor roast four large oranges till they are a pale brown. You may do them before a clear fire or in an oven. Dissolve half a pound of loaf sugar in half a pint of claret. When the oranges are roasted quarter them without peeling, lay them in the bottom of a bowl or tureen, add two beaten (now grated) nutmegs and two sticks of cinnamon. Pour on them the wine and sugar. Cover it and let it stand till next day. Then heat the remainder of the bottle of claret till it boils, and having first pressed and mashed the pieces of orange with a spoon to bring out the juice, put them with the syrup into a cloth and strain it into the hot claret. Serve hot in large glasses."

We serve it New Year's eve with Dutch loaf or cinnamon buns. C. W.

THOMPSON, Conn., February 17.

If It Were Another Than T. R.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let us suppose:

That it was another than Theodore Roosevelt who in 1904 said that not in any circumstances would he again become a candidate for the Presidency, and who in 1908 strenuously advocated the nomination and then afterward the election of William H. Taft.

Again, let us suppose:

That at present that other person than Theodore Roosevelt was permitting himself to be boomed for the nomination in opposition to President Taft and to be generally regarded as receptive, if not eager.

In such a case what would Mr. Roosevelt say?

Would there be adjectives enough in the English language adequately to describe the man as Mr. Roosevelt would see him?

One can readily imagine that Mr. Roosevelt would say of him that he was a malefactor of great mendacity, an unmitigated and even transcendental traitor, a unique specimen of incarnated pernicious egotism, a person carrying a vacuum where his sense of honor should be, a victim of acute, ingrowing hero worship, an unprincipled lollypop, a pestiferous jack in the box.

Wouldn't he say, at least, those things?

HYPOTHETIST.

RENSSELAER, N. Y., February 18.

Senator La Follette's Bad Jockeying.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Many years ago a four mile horse race was run over the beautiful track at Lexington, Ky. Seven horses were entered, but only three came to the bugle call. I journeyed many miles to see it.

The three horses were sent off, but the riders did not hurry matters at all. Riding side by side, they all struck a gentle little canter. So they travelled around the course. Just a little canter that hardly wet a hair on either of the horses; they rode side by side once, twice, three times around the mile track.

In the fourth mile they did not increase the pace till when within about a half mile of the finish they broke into a gallop, still riding side by side, but when they entered upon the stretch, or the last quarter of a mile, they went licketysplit under whip and spur to the wire, the race being really run in the last quarter. A mare named Skedaddle won by a nose.

Senator La Follette started to gallop a year too soon. JOHN C. RODGERS.

CINCINNATI, February 18.

Boiling Eggs in Comparative Safety.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The egg ought to be boiled according an accurate estimate of the time he has been taken out of the net and the one he reaches the kitchen pot. A new lay egg will certainly be cooked quicker to the point and without the danger of an explosion than an other egg having villegiatured few months if not years in some cold storage.

Hence, let me suggest that boiled eggs consumers exact from their grocers a certificate of birth for each one. Then, if after the boiling according to a scale of age, something as the one employed by the Insurance life companies, the egg when tasted is unsatisfactory, the consumer thanks to the certificate can send back what left of him to his grocer with a note of that sort:

"Certificate a falsehood and advise you to return the egg to the hen with prayer to lay him again."

HENRI DE LAFITOLE.

NEW YORK, February 19.

P. S. I guess that in stating that stupidity is the pivot of civilization M. Aimé Le Compte is exagering a little. Make a wheel of it instead, a big one if you like, but no more. H. DE L.

A Scribe's Suggestion.

Watch your child with utmost care,
But of one thing pray beware.
With keen edged knives, if he desire,
Let him play, and also fire.
But from this duty do not shrink,
Don't ever give him pen and ink.

L. T. M.

DR. STEPHEN SMITH'S BUSY 89TH BIRTHDAY

But He Gets a Chance to Recall the Day When Bellevue Had Not a Single Trained Nurse.

THE NEW YORK OF THE '60S

When We Had No Board of Health or Sanitary Code—A Way in Which a Good Digestion Was Won.

Dr. Stephen Smith was 89 years old yesterday. He celebrated his birthday by working much of the time at the offices of the New York State Board of Charities, of which he has been president since 1881; though he did go all the way down to the Downtown Club to lunch with William Rhinelander Stewart, and last night he presided at a family dinner.

It was just after he had come in from a brisk walk at dusk yesterday that one succeeded in coming up with him. Judging from the way Dr. Smith looked, it must feel fine to celebrate one's eighty-ninth birthday. It is some fifteen years since he retired from the active practice of surgery, but in that time he has done a great deal of consultation work and has kept up his connection with various charitable and medical institutions in which he was interested.

Dr. Smith was responsible for the foundation of the first training school for nurses in the United States, and he was instrumental in getting a sanitary code for New York city out of which have come the present health regulations of this and other cities in the United States. He has known New York since 1849, when after studying at the old Geneva Medical College and under Dr. Frank Hamilton in Buffalo he came here to be graduated and receive his degree. He has been connected with Bellevue Hospital ever since the days when it was being evolved from an almshouse.

"Until 1872 the nurses we had in Bellevue were mostly selected from the women who had been committed to the workhouse for ten days because of drunkenness," said Dr. Smith at his home, 431 Riverside Drive. "They were of a pretty low type, and we used to select such as could be used. Florence Nightingale had established her training school for nurses in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital, London, and when the State Charities had been established by Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler a visiting committee which went to Bellevue found conditions so bad that an agitation was begun to establish a training school in connection with the hospital.

"An agent was sent over to London and he returned enthusiastic and with full data furnished by Miss Nightingale herself as to how to organize such an institution. The advisability of establishing such a school was referred to a committee of the medical board consisting of Dr. James R. Wood, Dr. Alonzo Clark and myself, who was secretary. Dr. Wood vigorously resisted the project and Dr. Clark opposed it. As I was editing a medical paper I knew a little more about the St. Thomas training school than they and was in favor of it from the beginning. One of Dr. Wood's objections was that the women so trained would all become doctors and run away with the practice.

"After some time they were won to a favorable way of thinking and we allowed the women who wanted to start the school to have one ward in Bellevue for their purposes. This worked such a tremendous change in our nursing methods that we soon gave them a second and then a third and finally turned over the whole hospital to them for the training work. Nowadays there is not a hospital and hardly an almshouse in the country that hasn't a training school for nurses maintained in connection with it."

Dr. Smith had much to do with the establishment of the Bellevue Medical Hospital and was a professor in it for many years. It was in 1856 that he became interested in sanitary work. He was at that time connected with the Typhus Fever Hospital when an epidemic spread over New York.

"It was then I found that New York had not a sanitary ordinance of any kind," said Dr. Smith. "There was no Board of Health. By far the larger number of fever cases came out of a few tenement houses of the worst class. These we found, it was impossible to close. We could not compel a landlord to shut up a house, even if it contained 100 cases of the disease. The movement for sanitary laws, however, did not gather force until 1864, when the Citizens Association, composed of 100 of the prominent men of the city, took hold of it and it took us two years to get a law through. This created the old Metropolitan Board of Health."

"Have you any recipe for long life?" Dr. Smith was asked. He laughed.

"Do you know," he said, "up to the time I was 60 I was a chronic dyspeptic, delicate and feeble, and with something wrong with me all the time. I believe it was as much because I wasn't able to work on the farm up in Onondaga county as anything else that I studied medicine. I never saw a well day, and I was completely crippled up, sometimes almost in a state of inanition. I lived on a diet composed largely of vegetables. I almost hate to tell how I acquired health and I should not prescribe the course I took.

"You see, President Cleveland sent me over to Paris as a delegate to a conference convened by the French Government to consider the question of preventing the importation of cholera into Europe. The French had found that the disease was brought by pilgrims from the Ganges to Mecca and thence conveyed to Europe by European pilgrims. Well, I knew there would be a lot of wining and dining, and I was loath to accept. When I got to Paris I found my fears realized. Almost every one of the French higher officials banqueted us in our stay, President Carnot himself giving no fewer than seven banquets. It was a case of being up against eating and drinking all the time.

"I had never been able to drink any spirituous liquors and eating the numerous courses of the first banquet almost finished me. It used to be the case that when I attended a public dinner after I would be sick for three or four days afterward.

"At the second banquet I found myself seated next to a famous French physician, an authority on diseases of the stomach, with whose work I was familiar. I told him my trouble and confessed I could not see how I was going to live through the ordeal of the next few months.

"'My dear sir,' he said, 'we have all that sort of a thing figured down to an exact basis over here. Every course at one of our dinners is followed by a wine which digests that course before the next course comes along. If you will eat and drink in the order the food and the wines are served you will be able to go home feeling fine and will awake with an appetite in the morning.'

"Well, I followed his prescription and ate and drank heartily and my indigestion went away, and though I used to be at those dinners until about 2 o'clock almost every morning I always got up after sleep feeling fine, and I have never since suffered from indigestion. I may add that I never had to resort to the treatment after coming home and I have never smoked."